

PA and AA Prescribing Working Group

Date and time	Wednesday 3 rd July 2024, 10:30am – 11.30am
Venue details	MS Teams
In attendance	<p>Prof. Elizabeth Hughes (EH) NHS England</p> <p>██████████ NHS England</p> <p>██████████ NHS England</p> <p>██████████ NHS England</p> <p>██████████ NHS England</p> <p>██████████ Association of Anaesthesia Associates</p> <p>██████████ NHS Education Scotland</p> <p>██████████ Wales Government</p> <p>██████████ Scottish Government</p> <p>██████████ General Medical Council</p> <p>██████████ Scottish Government</p> <p>██████████ Scottish Government</p> <p>Prof. Jeanie Watkins (JW) Physician Associate Schools Council</p>
Apologies	<p>██████████ General Medical Council</p> <p>██████████ Department of Health and Social Care</p>





Item

1 Welcome and apologies

Prof Elizabeth Hughes welcomed the working group and noted apologies.

Due to the long-term nature of this work, there will be scheduled working groups where a full meeting is not necessary. It was noted that this meeting is an opportunity to touch base with colleagues to provide reassurance of ongoing activity, and to sense check with membership on developments across the broader MAPS agenda.

2 Minutes and Action Log

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed, with no amendments. A number of actions remain on the action log and will be progressed at the appropriate time.

3 Medicines mechanism focus groups

Progress to date

- The MAP programme team has completed high-level summaries and full transcripts of each focus group – 3 for each profession. [Redacted]

Redacted under
Section 35(1)(a)
FOIA

- [Redacted] has undertaken an additional focus group with student PAs from science undergraduate backgrounds. This focus group highlighted a number of additional themes which had not been previously identified.

The information from the focus groups will be compiled into one report. Although both groups answered the same questions, the recommendations for the appropriate medicines mechanism may potentially differ and require separate analysis. [Redacted] Redacted under Section 35(1)(a) FOIA

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Bullet points
redacted under
Section 35(1)(a)
FOIA



[Redacted]

Redacted under Section 35(1)(a) FOIA

Redacted under Section 35(1)(a) FOIA

[Redacted] It was clarified that work is exploratory at this stage [Redacted] Whilst major stakeholders are aware of the activity taking place it is unlikely that there will be any additional external engagement on this work until after regulation is in place.

A brief update on GMC regulation was provided, which included:

- The GMC is currently analysing responses to their rules consultation, however the outcome is not yet available.
- Regulation is still expected to be in place by December 24.

Bullet points redacted under Section 35(1)(a) FOIA

- [Redacted] This includes surveys and input from stakeholders, trainees and service providers. The GMC are unable to undertake this until regulation is in place.

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Redacted under Section 35(1)(a) FOIA

6 AOB

[Redacted] raised an issue around the use of Patient Specific Directions (PSD) to administer medicine, which is the current mechanism by which AAs are already working under. It was noted that hospitals currently have varying processes and with regulation approaching, highlighted that many are experiencing push back from their pharmacy departments. In particular, this is with a prescription where a range of dosages and frequencies applies. This is leaving AAs unclear as to how they should be administering medications, and it was suggested whether support and guidance could be developed for AAs and Heads of Pharmacy Departments to clarify.

It was stated that the mechanisms used to supply and/or administer medicines are part of the governance for each individual trust for all professions, and that



developing guidance specific to AAs and the use of PSDs may not be appropriate as it may suggest the process for AAs is different.

There was agreement by the group to approach the NHSE Pharmacy Programme about the possibility of disseminating a general statement about the use of PSDs.
Action – NHSE to discuss this issue with [REDACTED], the Deputy Chief Pharmaceutical Officer.

[REDACTED] noted that similar issues were experienced at his trust, and suggested IM should speak with representatives from the AAA, who may have successfully navigated this issue in their trust.

On the topic of PSDs, [REDACTED] shared that general feedback from the AA focus groups supported the use of PSDs and this was viewed as a safe and acceptable way for AAs to be able to prescribe.

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 20 th August, 10:30-11:30
Completed by	[REDACTED] Secretariat,
Confirmed by	[REDACTED] Programme Lead